

410-412 Tenth St. (Commercial Building)
(Fantasy Books)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-487

HABS
DC,
WASH,
269-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 410-412 Tenth St. (Commercial Building)		HABS NO. DC-487
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Fantasy Books		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 412 Tenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Square 348, Lot 20.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c.1860 (see attached)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) unknown
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This simple commercial building is situated within a row of similar scaled 19th Century buildings. The two-story projecting bay, a later addition, provides interest to an otherwise simple facade. The building is located in the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick and frame; foundation is probably of brick.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular in shape, this building measures 25' x 50'.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE 412 Tenth Street is a brick faced three-story structure, three bays wide, two of which comprise a two story bay window. The first story is clad in aluminum with double steel and glass doors offset left and a glass and steel show window on the right. A large rectangular sign above the first floor is wrapped in a row of 72 lights. (see attached)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Not inspected		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Building Permits cited are as follows: (see attached)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Currently the building houses an adult book store. The rear and upper stories are vacant according to manager on duty.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE See also DC-493 (SQUARE 348) For additional information.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds; District of Columbia Tax Records, General Assessment Records and Building Permits, National Archives; Baist's Atlas of Washington, Martin Luther King Library, Washingtoniana Room, Washington, D.C.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION W.F. Hunter, Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation		DATE February 1981

Date of Construction (cont'd)

Although the appearance of the hipped roof with a small dormer leads one to place construction in the early 19th Century, the Tax Records show no improvements on the lot until 1860, when improvements are listed at \$1000 and noted in red, indicating new construction. There is no significant increase after this time.

Exterior Features of Note (cont'd)

The three-sided bay window extends from the top of the show window on street level to the bottom of the cornice. Stringcourses are located above and below each set of three windows on the bay. The molded cornice of the bay is metal and the one-over-one double-hung sash window frames are of wood. Two plastic signs project over the bay on the second story.

Windows on the south (left) side of the facade are one-over-one double-hung sash with wood frames. They have flat arch stone lintels and wooden sills.

The entablature consists of a metal cornice and frieze with a brick architrave that projects from the surface of the facade.

In the center of the slightly hipped roof is a gabled dormer window with a one-over-two double-hung sash window.

Major Alterations and Additions With Dates (cont'd)

- 6/8/01 #1003 - build wooden bay covered with metal starting from second floor to eaves of roof; to be a balcony extending on south side and to line up floor with bay the same; iron railing and balusters; new trim in all windows.
- 10/10/02#674 - Contractor J.B. Collier; show window 7'10" x 9'4" (width and height) roof in place.
- 1/19/03 #252514 - remove non-bearing partition on first floor; reinforce second floor joists where needed and repair joists in rear of building; Contractor, owner Peter Michael.
- 8/5/43 #262823 - erect show windows; designer E.J. Martin; Contractor Martin Bros.